

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 10/696,361

Atty. Docket No. Q78213

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).

2. (currently amended): A process for cleaning according to Claim 6/Claim 1, wherein the cleaning sheet is a same sheet as an electrophotographic image-receiving sheet which is used for the image forming apparatus.

3. (currently amended): A process for cleaning according to Claim 6/Claim 1, wherein L1 is larger than one of L2 and L3 by from 0.5 cm to 15 cm.

4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended): A process for cleaning according to Claim 6/Claim 1, wherein the stains comprise a thermoplastic resin which is adhered on the heating and pressuring means after fixing.

6. (currently amended): A process for cleaning according to Claim 1, comprising:
heating and pressuring a cleaning sheet with a heating and pressuring means, the cleaning sheet being fed through an image forming apparatus such that stains are removed,

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wherein the heating and pressuring means is at least one of a fixing belt and a fixing roller; and

the cleaning sheet has a support and a layer containing a thermoplastic resin over the support.

wherein the cleaning sheet is in a form of a roll which is used after being cut so as to satisfy at least one of the following formulae:

L1 (cm) > L2 (cm) and

L1 (cm) > L3 (cm),

wherein L1 is a length of the cleaning sheet in a direction of feeding the cleaning sheet, L2 a perimeter of the fixing roller, and L3 a perimeter of the fixing belt, and wherein the process satisfies at least one of the following formulae;

L2 (cm) > L4 (cm) and

L3 (cm) > L4 (cm)

wherein L2 and L3 are the same as L2 and L3 above, respectively, and L4 represents a length of a smallest electrophotographic image-receiving sheet in a direction of feeding the electrophotographic image-receiving sheet.

7. (currently amended): A process for cleaning according to Claim 6Claim 1, wherein a size of the cleaning sheet is selected from the group consisting of L-size, A6-size, A4-size, B4-size, A3-size, B5-size, postcard-size, and business card-size.

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8. (currently amended): A process for cleaning according to Claim 6~~Claim 1~~, wherein the heating and pressuring means is a belt-fixing smoothing device which includes:
the fixing roller;
the fixing belt; and
a cooling device.

9. (currently amended): A process for cleaning according to Claim 6~~Claim 1~~, wherein a fixing temperature at which toner is fixed on an electrophotographic image-receiving sheet in the image forming apparatus differs from a temperature during cleaning at a portion of the image forming apparatus where fixing is conducted.

10. (currently amended): A process for cleaning according to Claim 6~~Claim 1~~, wherein a transport speed when toner is fixed on an electrophotographic image-receiving sheet in the image forming apparatus differs from a transport speed during cleaning at a portion of the image forming apparatus where fixing is conducted.

11. (currently amended): A process for cleaning according to Claim 6~~Claim 1~~, wherein the fixing belt comprises:
a heat resistant support film; and
a releasing layer formed over the support film.

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12. (original): A process for cleaning according to Claim 11, wherein the releasing layer is one of a layer of fluorocarbon siloxane rubber and layers comprising a layer of silicone rubber and a layer of fluorocarbon siloxane rubber disposed in this sequence.

13. (original): A process for cleaning according to Claim 12, wherein the fluorocarbon siloxane rubber comprises a main chain which includes at least one of a perfluoroalkyl ether group and a perfluoroalkyl group.

14. (canceled).

15. (currently amended): An image forming apparatus according to Claim 18~~Claim 14~~, wherein L1 is larger than one of L2 and L3 by from 0.5 cm to 15 cm.

16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended): An image forming apparatus according to Claim 18~~Claim 14~~, wherein the heating and pressuring means is a belt-fixing smoothing device which includes:
the fixing roller;
the fixing belt; and
a cooling device.

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18. (currently amended): An image forming apparatus according to Claim 14,
comprising:

a heating and pressuring means which fixes toner on an electrophotographic image-receiving sheet which has a support and a toner image-receiving layer containing a thermoplastic resin on the support,

wherein the heating and pressuring means is at least one of a fixing belt and a fixing roller; and

a cleaning sheet for removing stains adhered on the heating and pressuring means,

wherein the cleaning sheet is in a form of a roll, and

the electrophotographic image-receiving sheet may be used as the cleaning sheet formed to a size satisfying at least one of the following formulae:

L1 (cm) > L2 (cm) and

L1 (cm) > L3 (cm),

wherein L1 is a length of the cleaning sheet in a direction of feeding the cleaning sheet, L2 a perimeter of the fixing roller, and L3 a perimeter of the fixing belt, and wherein the image-forming apparatus satisfies at least one of the following formulae:

L2 (cm) > L4 (cm) and

L3 (cm) > L4 (cm)

wherein L2 and L3 are the same as L2 and L3 above, respectively, and L4 represents a length of a smallest electrophotographic image-receiving sheet in a direction of feeding the electrophotographic image-receiving sheet.

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19. (original): An image forming apparatus according to Claim 18, further comprising a sheet cutting means which cuts the roll of cleaning sheet such that a sheet cut off from the roll satisfies at least one of the following formulae:

$L_1 \text{ (cm)} > L_2 \text{ (cm)}$ and

$L_1 \text{ (cm)} > L_3 \text{ (cm)}$.